

Private
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING



OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON JOINT INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

Attendance

- Aislinn Kottwitz X
- Amber X
- McReynolds X
- Blanca Uzeta X
- O'Leary X
- Constance X
- Hass X
- Danny Moore E
- Elizabeth X
- Wilkes X
- Gary Horvath X
- Heather Barry X
- Hunter Barnett X
- Jason Kelly X
- John Buckley X
- Jolie Brawner X
- JulieMarie X
- Shepherd X
- Macklin X
- Kevin Fletcher X
- Lori Schell X
- Martha X
- Coleman X
- Moussa X
- Diawara X
- Paula Espinoza X
- Robin X
- Schepper X
- Samuel X
- Greenidge X
- Simon Tafoya X
- William Leone X
- Carlos Perez X
- Carly Hare X

Date 07/27/2021

Time 07:04:36 PM to 10:38:35 PM

Place Denver

This Meeting was called to order by
Simon Tafoya

This Report was prepared by
Zach Beaudoin

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Hearing Items Action Taken

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The chairs played the introductory video to start the meeting.

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Chair Tafoya gave his post-video introduction.

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Maria Ogneva, representing self, testified. She testified that she believes the current maps take electoral power away from communities of color, which leads to dilution of representation.

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Khadija Haynes, representing self, testified. Ms. Haynes testified about affordable housing and the challenges that her community in Denver faces. She also testified that communities of interest could be covered better with districts East - West districts.

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Mr. Wellington Webb, representing self, testified. Mr. Webb testified that the boundary lines down Colorado Blvd don't represent Black people adequately. He also discussed communities of interest that he believes aren't represented.

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Commissioners asked Mr. Webb questions about his testimony and expertise on former redistricting efforts.

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Hon. Barbara O'Brien, representing self, testified. Hon. O'Brien testified that she wants Denver as full as possible and asked commissioners to pay attention to school boundaries and communities of interest.

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Ms. Michele Lawonn, representing self, testified. Ms. Lawonn testified that she doesn't like that her districts in the preliminary map change who represents her. She would like the the districts to remain the same.

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Ms. Cecelia Espenoza, representing self, testified. Ms. Espenoza testified that she believes creating districts North to South would better represent the Latinx community rather than East to West.

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Sondra Young, representing NAACP Denver, testified. Ms. Young testified on redlining and the impact of the preliminary maps on communities of color.

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Ms. Danielle Shoots, representing self, testified. Ms. Shoots testified that the preliminary Denver districts are devastating to small businesses and impact minority communities and their representation negatively.

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Ms. Portia Prescott, representing self, testified. Ms. Prescott testified that the Denver maps as they are fracture communities of color and don't represent the local history and communities.

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Mr. Owen Perkins, representing self, testified. Mr. Perkins testified that he would like the districts to reflect the populations by creating districts that can represent communities of interest and minority communities.

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Ms. AnnaJo Haynes, representing self, testified. Ms. Haynes testified that the districts cut along Colorado Blvd and that tends to disadvantage people of color.

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Frank Sullivan, representing self, testified. Mr. Sullivan testified that he doesn't believe that the communities were adequately represented in the preliminary districts.

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Susan Rogers, representing self, testified. Ms. Rogers testified that she believes the numbering of the districts should remain the same.

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Mr. Paul Linton, representing self, testified. Mr. Linton testified that the Denver districts should keep communities of interest, which helps encourage more representation and participation.

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Ms. Rosemary Pesko, representing self, testified. Ms. Pesko testified that she wants to keep communities whole as much as possible and not crack communities of color.

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Mrs. Victoria Scott-Haynes, representing self, testified. Mrs. Scott-Haynes testified that Black seniors are crucial to opposing gentrification. She said that the way that the districts split along Colorado Blvd hinders the quality of representation these communities have.

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Ms. Jacqui Shumway, representing self, testified. Ms. Shumway testified that when districts are drawn with community edges in other districts it can complicate voting and prevent people from voting full ballots across counties.

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Bishop Jerry Demmer, representing Greater Metro Denver Ministerial Alliance, testified. Bishop Demmer testified that when parishioners and the parish are split in districts it erodes the power that Black churches have worked to build. He said that their communities must be united so that they can advocate for their interests.

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Ms. Wendy Howell, representing Colorado Working Families Party, testified. Ms. Howell testified that it is important to hear the voices of communities of color and create maps that strengthen their representation.

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Patricia Manning, representing self, testified. Ms. Manning discussed the amount of activism and community engagement that exist within her community of Five Points. She wants the dividing line to be changed from North to South.

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Ms. Jasmine Ramirez, representing self, testified. Ms. Ramirez testified that her community is a community of interest and discussed the ways they have common interests.

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Ian Coggins, representing self, testified. Mr. Coggins said that he doesn't want to break up the communities and reiterated what other testifiers have said.

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Mr. Ryan Cobbins, representing self, testified. Mr. Cobbins testified that it is important for the Black businesses and community members from Five Points to have representation and asked to preserve the neighborhood.

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Mrs. Valerie Wunderlich, representing self, testified. Mrs. Wunderlich testified that Denver shouldn't be split into the suburbs but should be a half district with Arapahoe County. She believes it is a community of interest and preserves the community of interests in Denver.

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Chris Maj, representing self, testified. Mr. Maj testified that the way the districts are drawn disenfranchises the airport workers by districting the airport workers separate from the airports.

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Denise Maes, representing ACLU of Colorado, testified. Ms. Maes testified that the preliminary map doesn't keep communities of interest whole and dilutes the representation of people of color.

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Mr. Mike Cortes, representing CLLARO (Colorado Latino Leadership Advocacy and Research Organization), testified. Mr. Cortes testified that Latinx communities of interest are sometimes more important than municipal areas and should be districted with their interests in mind.

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Ms. Patricia Morland, representing self, testified. Ms. Morland testified about HD 7 and doesn't want to be pushed into HD 6. She testified that the current district is very connected and has shared interests.

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Elijah Lewis, representing himself, testified. Mr. Lewis discussed his concern that the Denver districts split central Denver and many of the neighborhoods, specifically in HD 2, aren't represented based on their interests.

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Chris Martinez, representing himself, testified. Mr. Martinez testified that he doesn't believe that Northeast Denver should be combined with Adams County and should remain with Denver. He also said that the preliminary maps dilute minority representation and reduces representation between maps.

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Tyler Drum, representing himself, testified. Mr. Drum said that he would like to see the Hispanic communities united and that the districts should be reverted to the former numbers.

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Dr. Michael Neil, representing self, testified. Dr. Neil testified that the way the districts are drawn dilutes neighborhood representation by diluting the representation within Denver communities.

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Rosario C de Baca, representing self, testified. Ms. C de Baca testified that the districts the way they are in the preliminary maps pose challenges to Latinx representation.

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Ari Gibson, representing self, testified. Mx. Gibson testified about how the preliminary maps negatively impact student representation at CU in Denver.

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Ms/ Jess Rosero, representing Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, testified. Ms. Rosero testified that her organization is dedicated in ensuring immigrants have representation and discussed the contributions of the Latin population as a community of interest.

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Representative Jennifer Bacon, representing herself, testified. Representative Bacon testified about the communities that she represents and reinforced many of the same issues as the other testifiers. She underlined the importance of keeping the Black community together and thinking about the history of the community.

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Senator James Coleman, representing himself, testified. Mr. Coleman testified that communities should have representation that represents the community and who can speak to the needs of the community.

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Representative Leslie Herod, representing herself, testified. Representative Herod testified that the current map has the largest Black caucus in the history of the state house and that the preliminary maps decrease representation for that community.

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Mr. Miguel Ceballos-Ruiz, representing self, testified. Mr. Ceballos-Ruiz testified that the people from the community should testify first. He also testified about issues that he believes are important to the Latinx community.

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The committee adjourned.

   